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## Why 21?

It is illegal in all 50 states  
and the District of  
Columbia for anyone under  
21 to drink alcohol.

- ❖ Significant increases in highway deaths among teens.
- ❖ Bodies continue to change and mature, especially the brain, which finishes developing around age 21.

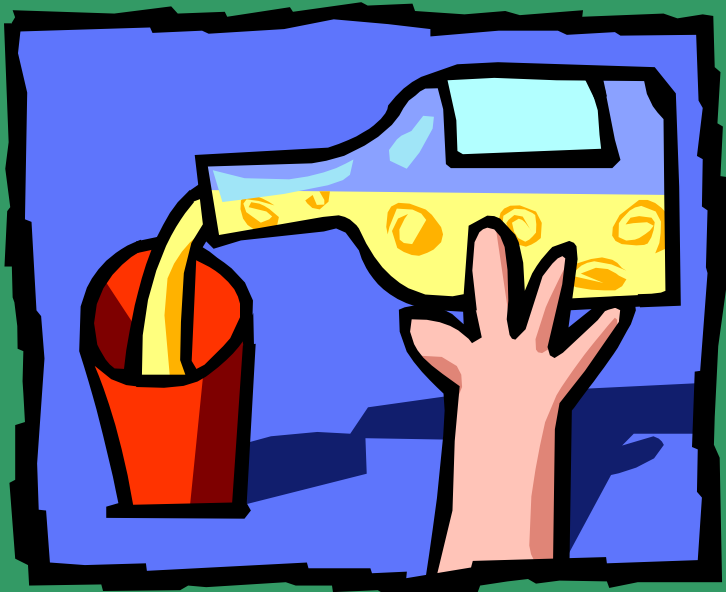


# Alcohol & Driving

Mixing inexperienced drivers with inexperienced drinkers is a recipe for disaster.

Drinking drivers are less able to:

- ❖ Track a moving object like a car
- ❖ Recover from glare
- ❖ React quickly
- ❖ See out of corner of the eye



## Some Important Facts

Regardless of what a person is drinking – the affects of alcohol are the same.

- ❖ A 12 oz. beer has about as much alcohol as a 1.5 ounce shot of liquor, a 5 oz. glass of wine, or a wine cooler.
- ❖ If a person becomes impaired, the only thing that helps them get sober is time.

# The Affects of Alcohol

**Alcohol affects everyone, but the severity and speed of the effects depend on several factors.**

❖ **Body weight**

❖ **Gender**

❖ **Food**

❖ **Mood**

❖ **Level of fatigue**

❖ **Age**

❖ **Metabolism**

❖ **Genetics**



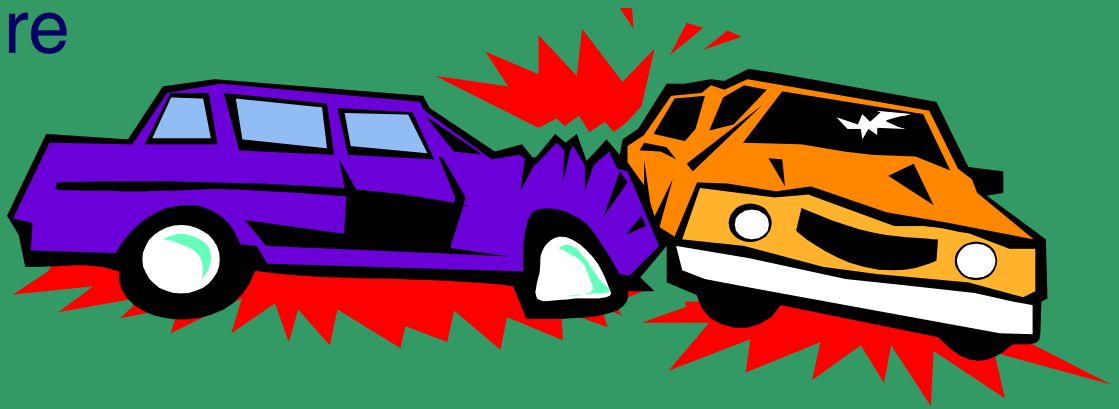
## What Is BAC?

Blood Alcohol Concentration

- ❖ The level of blood alcohol concentration or BAC determines the amount of alcohol in a person's system.
- ❖ The BAC is what a police officer measures when a person is stopped for suspected drunk driving.

# The Consequences of Underage Drinking

- ❖ Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes
- ❖ Unprotected sex
- ❖ Increased accidents, injuries and suicides
- ❖ Crime, violence, property damage
- ❖ Academic failure



## Youth and Alcohol in Murfreesboro



**Among 16-18 year olds:**

- **There were 18 alcohol-related car crashes in 2001.**
- **50% occurred on the weekend.**
- **The most likely time of an alcohol-related crash is between midnight and 1:00 am**

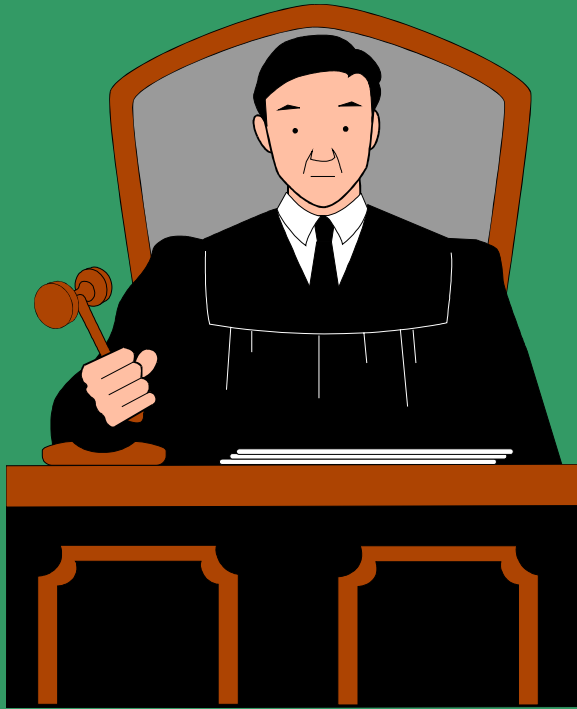




## **Progress in Lowering Alcohol Related Fatalities Among Teens**

- In 1999, 16- to 20- year-old drivers represented 14% of all intoxicated drivers involved in fatal crashes.
- This is an increase of 13% since 1995, but a 41% decrease since 1985.

Source: Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS), U. S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Overview of 1999 Traffic Safety Facts—Children.



## Solving The Problem

- ❖ Awareness by youth and adults that drinking and driving is dangerous.
- ❖ Enforcement of underage drinking laws.
- ❖ Tougher underage drinking laws



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